



REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present patent application. According to the Office Action mailed August 23, 2004, (i) claims 1-3 and 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e); and (ii) claim 4 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

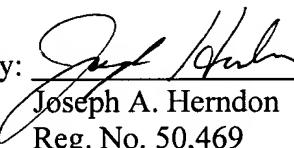
Applicants have canceled claim 4, and amended original claim 1 to include the limitations of original claim 4. Thus, claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. As a result, pending claim 1 and dependent claims 2-3 and 5-6 are allowable.

If there are any additional matters that may be resolved through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (312)-913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,

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